

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A portable computer, comprising:
a base;
a lid that pivots relative to the base; and
a latch configured to secure the lid to the base, the latch including a data capture device,
the latch being configured to move relative to the lid, the movement including a pivot and at least one of a swivel and a translation.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The portable computer as recited in claim [2] 1 wherein the latch is detachable from the lid.
5. (Original) The portable computer as recited in claim 1 wherein the lid pivots between an open position, placing the lid away from the base, and a closed position placing the lid next to the base, and wherein the base includes a latch receiving area that is cooperatively positioned with the latch so that when the lid is closed the latch and latch receiving area engage one another thus securing the lid to the base.
6. (Original) The portable computer as recited in claim 5 wherein the latch and latch receiving area include locking features that lockably engage with one another when the latch is positioned adjacent the latch receiving area, and wherein the latch or latch receiving area includes an actuator for disengaging the locking features.
7. (Original) The portable computer as recited in claim 1 wherein the latch includes one or more indicators.

8. (Original) The portable computer as recited in claim 1 wherein the data capture device is a camera, the camera including a charge coupled device (CCD) image sensor or a complimentary oxide semiconductor (CMOS) image sensor.
9. (Currently Amended) A laptop computer, comprising:
a base containing a processor;
a lid pivotally coupled to the base, the lid containing a display operatively coupled to the processor;
a latch pivotally coupled to the lid, the latch containing an electronic feature operatively coupled to the processor and a locking feature for lockably engaging the base, the latch being automatically positioned in a home position when the lid is positioned in an open position, and wherein the latch is automatically positioned in a lock position when the lid is positioned in a closed position.
10. (Original) The laptop computer as recited in claim 9 wherein the latch includes a slider switch for disengaging the locking feature from the base.
11. (Original) The laptop computer as recited in claim 9 wherein the lid includes an LCD that is surrounded at its periphery by a bezel, and wherein the latch is attached to the bezel.
12. (Original) The laptop computer as recited in claim 9 wherein the latch is configured to mate with a cut-out in the base in order to secure the lid to the base.
13. (Original) The laptop computer as recited in claim 12 wherein the locking feature is a hook that is configured to capture a plunger attached to the base and located in the cut-out.
14. (Original) The laptop computer as recited in claim 9 wherein latch contains a camera that is operatively coupled to the processor, the camera including a CMOS image sensor chip and a lens assembly.
15. (Currently Amended) A laptop computer, comprising:
a base containing a processor;
a lid pivotally coupled to the base, the lid containing a display operatively coupled to the processor;

a latch pivotally coupled to the lid, the latch containing an electronic feature operatively coupled to the processor and a locking feature for lockably engaging the base; and

~~The laptop computer as recited in claim 9 further comprising a positioning device for controlling the rotation of the latch about its axis.~~

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The laptop computer as recited in claim [9] 15 wherein the positioning device includes a latch tilting mechanism configured to convert the rotation of the lid about its axis to rotation of the latch about its axis.

18. (Original) The laptop computer as recited in claim 17 wherein the lid is pivotally coupled to the base via a first hinge mechanism and the latch is pivotally coupled to the lid via a second hinge mechanism, and wherein the latch tilting mechanism includes a belt that rotatably couples an axle of the first hinge mechanism to an axle of a second hinge mechanism.

19. (Currently Amended) A laptop computer, comprising:

a base containing a processor;

a lid pivotally coupled to the base, the lid containing a display operatively coupled the processor;

a latch pivotally coupled to the lid,~~The laptop computer as recited in claim 9 wherein the~~ latch contain[s]ing a symbol illumination system that is operatively coupled to the processor and
a locking feature for lockably engaging the base, the symbol illumination system including a light source for illuminating a symbol on an illuminable portion of the latch.

20. (Currently Amended) The laptop computer as recited in claim 19 wherein the light source is a light emitting diode (LED).

21. (Original) The laptop computer as recited in claim 9 wherein the latch contains a camera and a symbol illumination system.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The portable computer as recited in claim 1 wherein the data capture device is a microphone.

25. (New) The portable computer as recited in claim 1 further including a second data capture device, the first data capture device corresponding to a camera, the second data capture device corresponding to a microphone.

26. (New) The portable computer as recited in claim 1 wherein the movement includes a pivot, a swivel and a translation.

27. (New) The portable computer as recited in claim 6 wherein the latch receiving area includes a plunger and wherein the latch includes a latch housing, the latch housing having a slit that is cooperatively positioned with the plunger and is configured to receive the plunger therethrough, the latch housing containing a spring element, hook and slider switch, the spring element being cooperatively positioned with the plunger and providing a spring resistance to the plunger when the plunger is inserted into the slit, the hook lockably receiving the plunger when the plunger is inserted into the slit, the hook being configured to rotate between a plunger receiving position for capturing the plunger and a plunger releasing position for releasing the plunger, the hook being spring biased in the plunger receiving position, the slider switch being slidably coupled to the latch housing and configured to free the hook from the plunger when the slider switch is from a first position to a second position, the slider switch being spring biased in the first position.

28. (New) The laptop computer as recited in claim 18 wherein the lid is positionable between an open position and a closed position, the latch is positionable between a home position and a locked position, and wherein the latch tilting mechanism is configured to automatically place the latch in the locked position when the lid is placed in the closed position, and to automatically place the latch in the home position when the lid is placed in the open position.

29. (New) The laptop computer as recited in claim 27 wherein a first end of the belt is attached to the axle of the first hinge mechanism, and a second end of the belt is attached to a tension spring mounted to the lid, and wherein the belt is draped around the axle of the second

hinge mechanism, the rotating axle of the first hinge mechanism causing the axle of the second hinge mechanism to rotate via the belt.

30. (New) The laptop computer as recited in claim 28 wherein the axles include teeth that engage corresponding teeth on the belt.

31. (New) The laptop computer as recited in claim 9 wherein the latch is capable of rotating to various positions when placed in the home position.